

Meeting Request:

Who: Broad-based Alaskan coalition focused on preventing the development of a precious metals mine (i.e., Pebble Mine Project) near Bristol Bay that would adversely impact indigenous peoples, fragile ecosystems, and the last, most productive salmon fishery in the world. Individual participants in this meeting include Alaska State Representative from Bristol Bay Region, the Honorable Bryce Edgmond; Former President of Alaska Senate, the Honorable Rick Halford; Curyung Tribal Council Chief Tom Tilden; Trout Unlimited's Director of Federal Salmon Policy Shoren Brown; Board Member of Alaska Independent Fishermen's Marketing Association and United Fishermen of Alaska Lindsey Bloom; and Executive Director of Bristol Bay Regional Seafood Development Association Bob Waldrop. Also participating are Howard Berman and Wayne Nastri of Dutko Worldwide.

Each of these individuals bring a unique perspective to this effort – from current and former members of the state legislature to representatives of local/professional fishermen to an organization which has worked since 1959 to conserve, protect, and restore North America's coldwater fisheries.

When: September 21, 22, or 23

Why: The above individuals/groups hope to discuss their Request for Clean Water Act 404(c) Action in the area of the proposed Pebble Mine, Alaska.

While there are many reasons for USEPA to move forward proactively in protecting Bristol Bay, CWA 404(c) authority may be exercised only when there is unacceptable adverse effect on municipal water supplies, shellfish beds and fishery areas (including spawning and breeding grounds), wildlife or recreational areas. The Coalition has shown that all the criteria are met for the 404(c) action. USEPA has the authority, trust responsibility and the duty to protect the indigenous people and this unique and valuable.

While many concerned individuals, organizations and other groups are concerned about the Pebble Mine project, the individuals/groups listed above are strongly committed to find conservation solutions that consider the needs of both fish and people. The proposed Pebble Mine in the area of Bristol Bay, poses numerous threats to the environment and human health; the mine would produce billions of tons of waste that would threaten municipal water supplies, fishery areas, wildlife health and recreation areas.

As salmon and their habitats continue to decline throughout much of their range, Bristol Bay stands as one of the last remaining strongholds of healthy salmon populations, providing a vital and perpetual resource not just to Alaskans, but to consumers throughout the U.S. and the around the world.

Where: USEPA Office